

## REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain pending.

The independent Claims 1, 16, 18, and 21 have been clarified in view of the examiner's unintended broad interpretation of the claims.

The examiner provisionally rejected certain claims as being obvious over claims in copending U.S. Application 10/658,566, assigned to the present assignee and having a common inventor. Since the present claims are being amended and the earlier application is not yet a patent, Applicant elects to wait to file any Terminal Disclaimer until the claims are finalized.

Amended Claim 1 and 16 are similar inventions and cover the embodiments of Figs. 1-4. In the example of Figs. 1-4, there are five different jackpots (16-20) that can be summed together upon a player betting a maximum amount (i.e., a maximum bet of 5 credits) and achieving a single jackpot winning outcome in the primary game (e.g., reels spinning and stopping). However, with the single jackpot winning outcome, the player only wins the single jackpot 16 with a bet of 1 credit; the player wins the accumulated jackpots 16 and 17 with a bet of 2 credits; the player wins the accumulated jackpots 16, 17, and 18 with a bet of 3 credits; the player wins the accumulated jackpots 16-19 with a bet of 4 credits; and the player wins all the accumulated jackpots 16-20 with a maximum bet of 5 credits.

In this way, the player sees all the possible jackpots that can be won and has incentive to bet more credits in a single game. The player knows the additional jackpots that can be won by betting additional credits.

**The examiner rejected Claims 1 and 16, as well as other claims, as being anticipated by Baerlocher (US Pat. 7,029,395).**

Baerlocher's invention is to change the odds of a player winning **a single jackpot** depending on the player's bet, so the player has an increased chance of winning the single jackpot if the player bets more for a single game. Although Baerlocher's technique gives the

player an incentive to bet more, there is still only a single jackpot that can possibly be won in any single game. Even though the jackpot amount changes, there is still only a single jackpot (col. 9, lines 28-37).

**Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 16 to make clear that there is a plurality of N different jackpots that can be won in a single game and that increasing one's bet results in winning multiple jackpots that are summed together for a single win.**

Baerlocher does not suggest Claims 1 and 16 because there is no suggestion that there are different jackpots that can be won in a single game or that **increasing a bet results in multiple different jackpots being summed together.**

Applicant's invention of Claims 1 and 16 is more appealing to the player than Baerlocher's invention, since the player sees that she can win a bigger jackpot by betting more. Further, Applicant's invention allows the N jackpots to accumulate at different rates, making the total jackpot win for each additional bet variable. For example, a jackpot that is only enabled when the player bets the fifth coin (or credit), such as jackpot 20 in Figs. 1-4, may be much higher than the other four jackpots, giving the player a non-linear added incentive to bet the maximum bet of 5 coins.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the clarified Claims 1 and 16, and their dependent claims, are allowable over Baerlocher.

**The examiner rejected independent Claim 18 as being anticipated by Baerlocher.**

Amended **independent Claim 18** is directed to the way that the different jackpots 16-20 in Fig. 2 are incremented. Claim 18 is different from Claims 1 and 16. In Claim 18, each column of symbols is associated with a different jackpot 16-20. When a "jackpot-incrementing symbol" is displayed in a column (such as the value \$50 or \$100 in Fig. 2), the jackpot for that column is incremented by that amount. One or more of the different jackpots are awarded based on the outcome of the game.

**Baerlocher** teaches a single jackpot that is incremented by a percentage of a players' bets (e.g., col. 1, lines 37-38), but does not suggest multiple jackpots that are associated with different columns and are incremented based on "jackpot-incrementing symbols" displayed in the associated column. In view of the amendments to Claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 18 and its dependent Claims 19 and 20 are allowable.

**The examiner rejected independent Claim 21 as being anticipated by Baerlocher.**

An embodiment of Claim 21 is described on page 6, lines 17-27, of the specification. In Claim 21, there is a plurality of N different jackpots such that any of the N jackpots may be won in a single game. The different jackpots are incremented "based on, at least in part, the occurrence of certain icons displayed in the primary game." Such "certain icons" may be the values \$50 and \$100 shown in Fig. 2.

In contrast, in Baerlocher, there is only a single jackpot that can be won during a game, and the jackpot is incremented based on a percentage of the players' bets. There is no suggestion of Applicant's Claim 21.

It is known in the prior art to provide multiple jackpots, where each individual jackpot is won for obtaining an associated jackpot outcome; however, such jackpots are incremented from a percentage of the players' bets and not from symbols/icons displayed in the primary game.

Accordingly, since the independent claims have been shown to be allowable over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable. Should the Examiner have any questions, please call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480 x202.

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